

Amendments to the Drawings

In FIG. 3, the legend of “(Prior Art)” is added.

This accompanying replacement sheet, which includes FIGS. 3 and 4, replaces the original sheet with the corresponding drawing figures.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the thorough examination of the present application and the indication that claims 5, 9, and 19 define allowable subject matter. In reliance on this admission, Applicant submits this amendment, in which independent claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 5 (and intervening claim 4), and claims 4 and 5 are correspondingly canceled. Independent claim 6 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9 (and claim 9 is correspondingly canceled). Likewise, independent claim 10 is amended to include allowable subject matter of claim 19 (and intervening claims 11 and 16), and claims 11, 16, and 19 are correspondingly canceled. Claim 17 is amended to revise its dependency to depend from claim 10.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-23 are pending. Claims 1, 6, and 10 are the independent claims, and each of these claims now recites subject matter that the Office Action admitted to be allowable. In addition, FIG. 3 has been amended to include a legend of "(Prior Art)." For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

FIG. 3 is objected to for not compliant with MPEP §608.02(g). In response, Applicants have amended the drawings above (see also replacement sheet) to correct this deficiency. Accordingly, the drawing objection should now be withdrawn.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 9, and 19 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, and 10 to incorporate the admittedly allowable

subject matter therein (along with any intervening claims). Claims 4, 5, 9, 11, 16, and 19 become redundant and thus are canceled.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 6, and 10 are now in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-3, 5-8, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-23 are also in condition for allowance since their respective independent claims 1, 6, and 10 are allowed.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-18 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Cheok et al. (Cheok), U.S. Patent No. 6,732,280. While Applicants did not agree with this rejection, the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendments made herein.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application, with pending claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-23, is in condition for allowance, and such action and the passing of this case to issue are therefore respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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